



February 1, 2019

Madeira Beach Issues Reminder on Political Signs

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – The voters in Madeira Beach will head to the polls on March 12th to cast their votes for two city commission seats and a series of proposed changes to the city's charter. For the next several weeks' residents will learn more about the candidates and issues from fliers, social media, television and print interviews and of course, lawn signs.

The City of Madeira Beach has ordinances regulating the use of lawn signs. Section 1126 of the City Code provides direction for the proper placement of lawn signs.



Section 102-194 states, "... up to 4 signs may be erected on any private property commencing 60 days prior to any public election which will be held within the city through seven days after said public election, with no permit fee requirement. Such signs are allowed on private property, provided that:

- Signs do not exceed four square feet in area
- The property on which the sign is located has the permission or authorization of the owner or renter of the real property
- Signs are to be removed within seven days after the date of the election

Section 102-8(a) states, "No sign other than those specifically authorized by subsections 102-49(13)c. and 102-49(15) shall be placed within a public right-of-way within the city unless said sign was so installed by, or at the direction of, a governmental agency. Any sign in violation of this section shall be subject to immediate removal and impounding...."

Section 102-72(a) states "Any portable sign located on a public right-of-way, may be removed by the city without notification to the owner or other person or persons having control, custody, or obtaining benefit from such sign. Any such sign removed under this section shall be stored by the city for a period not to exceed five days and may be reclaimed by such person within such five-day period after paying an administrative fee of \$50.00. "

Stealing a political lawn sign is considered petit theft, a 2nd degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1000 fine. Defacing or damaging a political lawn sign is a 2nd degree misdemeanor punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

For more information contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov.